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BACHELOR’S, MASTER’S AND PhD PROGRAMMES AT SWU “NEOFIT RILSKI” FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The South-West University “Neofit Rilski” in Blagoevgrad has been granted the highest 9.26 grade out of the possible 10 by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency.

The University offers excellent opportunities for practical training and the academic staff willingly provides consultations in all academic subjects.

The University has modern training, scientific and sports facilities and offers a wide range of possibilities for artistic performances.

The Career Centre offers probation work and ensures contacts with future employers.

The students can take part in international exchange programs and the academic results achieved in foreign universities are recognized and included in their academic record.

The University is conveniently located only 90 kilometers from the capital city of Bulgaria and 80 kilometers from Greece.

With its 80,000 inhabitants Blagoevgrad is a unique place to live and study.
I. GENERAL AND SPECIAL LANGUAGE TRAINING IN BULGARIAN LANGUAGE:

Foreign citizens applying for training in a Bachelor’s, Master’s or PhD programme can obtain competence in general and special Bulgarian language at the University as follows:

- The full course in General Bulgarian and special training in Bulgarian has duration of no less than 9 months. The course finishes with an exam in Bulgarian language, both written and oral which is administered by a special commission. The individuals, who have passed the final language exam both in general and special Bulgarian, are awarded a Language Certificate, which is recognized by other Bulgarian universities. The full course fee is 3000 €. The deadline for submitting the application is 1st of October of the current academic year.

- A short course in Bulgarian for individuals who have command of Bulgarian. The course involves training in specialized terminology corresponding to the major chosen and has 6-month duration. The short course finishes with an exam held by a commission. A Language Certificate in Bulgarian, which is valid for other Bulgarian universities, is issued. The tuition fee for the short course is 1000 € payable in one installment. The deadline for submitting the application is 1st of March of the current academic year.

- Those candidates, who have a good competence in Bulgarian language and specialized terminology but cannot present a lawful proof, can sit the final exam conducted by a commission in order to verify their language competence. The successful candidates are awarded a Language Certificate in Bulgarian, which is valid for applying to other Bulgarian universities. The exam fee is 300 €. The exam can be taken at any time of the academic year.

II. TRAINING IN BACHELOR’S PROGRAMMES

AFTER COMPLETION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION


Admission requirements:

The candidates should present a Certificate of Secondary Education allowing them to continue their studies in the state that issued the certificate. The certificates issued in foreign countries should undergo a procedure of official recognition held by the Blagoevgrad Regional Inspectorate of Education.

Duration of studies:

- 4 academic years. The duration of studies can be shortened to 3 years.

Deadline for submitting the application:

- 1st of October of the current academic year.

Modes of education:

- full-time and part-time for citizens of the European Union (EU) and the European Economic Area (EEA).
- only full-time for citizens outside the European Union and the European Economic Area.

The University provides the opportunity for individual training.

Tuition fees for citizens of the EU and EEA countries:

The EU and EEA citizens can apply under the following possible conditions:

Variant 1 - on the terms and conditions for Bulgarian citizens – training is subsidized by the Bulgarian state. The fees per semester are from 110 € up to 220 € depending on the major chosen. The training is conducted in Bulgarian only.
Tuition fees for citizens outside the EU and the EU economic area:
Citizens of non-EU countries or coming from outside the EU economic area can apply for and be trained in full-time BA programmes only. The tuition fee is 1500 €. The training is conducted in Bulgarian.

* Note: The tuition fee for the semester is payable at the beginning of each semester.

The candidates with double citizenship, one of which is Bulgarian, pay a tuition fee amounting to 50% of the fee for international students.

The students can take a simultaneous training in more than one BA programmes.

**Variant 2** - on the terms and conditions for Bulgarian citizens – the tuition is paid. The fees per semester are between 320 € and 700 € depending on the major chosen. **The training is conducted in Bulgarian only.**

* Note: The candidates for training under **Variant 1** and **Variant 2** are required to present a certificate of language competence in Bulgarian language.

* Note: The tuition fee for the semester is payable at the beginning of each semester.
APPLICATION DOCUMENTS:

1. Application form addressed to the Rector;

2. A validated copy and a certified translation of a Diploma for completed secondary education including a supplement specifying the period of attendance and the grades;

3. A document issued by a competent body certifying the applicant’s eligibility to continue his/her studies in higher educational institutions in the country in which he/she has completed his/her secondary education.

*Note:

- The copy of the Diploma, the record of the student’s grades and the document under article 3 should contain an original apostil from a country that has signed the Hague's Convention, or to be sealed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of a country that has signed a bilateral agreement of “legal aid” with Bulgaria.

- The apostil or the seal should be laid out in the country that has issued the certificate and the grade supplement.

- In case the copy of the Diploma, the record of the student’s grades and the document under article 3 have been translated in Bulgarian in the issuing country, the translated copies with the original apostil or a seal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be officially legalized by the Bulgarian Embassy (Consulate) in the corresponding country.

- In case the translation in Bulgarian has been conducted in Bulgaria the legalization of the translation should be done by the Consular Office of the Bulgarian Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.

- In case the copy of the Diploma, the record of the student’s grades and the document under article 3 have been issued by a country that has not signed the Hague’s Convention or has not signed a bilateral agreement of “legal aid” with Bulgaria, the conventional procedure for legalization and certification of translations is applied.

4. Medical certificate issued no later than 30 days before submission of the application pack;

5. Copy of the ID;

6. 4 photos (4/3 format);

The documents under articles 2, 3 and 4 should be translated in Bulgarian and legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the respective country and the Bulgarian Embassy.

Application fee – 105 €.

* Note: Tuition fees are updated annually by a Decree of the Council of Ministers.

Training is offered in the following Bachelor's programmes:


Pedagogy of Teaching in...: Mathematics and Informatics, Pedagogy of Teaching Bulgarian and Foreign Languages, Pedagogy of Teaching Fine Arts, Pedagogy of Teaching Music, Pedagogy of Teaching Technical Sciences and Technologies, Pedagogy of Teaching Physics and Mathematics, Pedagogy of Teaching Chemistry and Physics, Pedagogy of Teaching Geography and History, Pedagogy of Teaching Physical Education)

History and Archeology (History, Archivistics and information security)

Philosophy

Philology (Bulgarian Philology, English Philology, Applied Linguistics, English and Ethnology, Linguistics)

Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Studies (Sociology, Cultural Studies, Culture and Media Studies)
III. MASTER'S PROGRAMMES OFFERED AFTER COMPLETION OF BACHELOR'S OR MASTER'S DEGREE

List with Masters programmes: (http://www.swu.bg/academic-activities/academic-programmes/masters-programmes.aspx.)

Admission requirements:
The candidates should present a BA or an MA Diploma of higher education that should be officially recognized by the Academic Council of SWU “Neofit Rilski”.

Recognition fee – 105 €.

Duration of studies:
- 1 academic year (two semesters) if the BA's major is in the same area of studies;
- 2 academic years (four semesters) if the BA's major is in a different area of studies.

* Note: The students in the two-year programmes are allowed to reduce the four-semester tuition to three or to two semesters according to an individually designed student's training plan.

Deadlines for enrollment in MA programmes:
- September and October for the programmes starting in the fall semester
- February and March for the programmes starting in the spring semester
Modes of education:

- Full-time and part-time education for EU citizens and the EU economic area;
- Only full-time education for citizens and states outside the EU and the EU economic area.

The University provides the opportunity for individual training.

Tuition fees for citizens of the EU and the EEA countries

The citizens of EU and EEA countries may apply and be trained under the following possible conditions:

**Variant 1** - on the terms and conditions for Bulgarian citizens – training is subsidized by the Bulgarian state. The fees per semester are between 105 € and 210 € depending on the major chosen. The training is conducted in Bulgarian only.

**Variant 2** - on the terms and conditions for Bulgarian citizens – the tuition is paid. The fees per semester are between 310 € and 650 € depending on the major chosen. The training is conducted in Bulgarian only.

*Note:* The candidates for training under Variant 1 and Variant 2 are required to present a certificate of language competence in Bulgarian.

**Variant 3:** Training in English language. The fee per semester is 1500 € for part-time education and 1600 € for full-time education.

*Note:* The tuition fee for the semester is payable at the beginning of each semester.

The candidates with double citizenship, one of which is Bulgarian, who are accepted for training under **Variant 3** (training in a foreign language for EU and EEA citizens) pay a tuition fee amounting to 50% of the fee for international students.

Tuition fees for citizens outside the EU and the EU economic area:

Citizens of non-EU and non-EEA countries can apply for and be trained in full-time MA programmes only. The tuition fee is 1600 €. The training is conducted in Bulgarian or under the conditions of Variant 3 /training in English language for EU and EEA citizens/.

*Note:* The tuition fee for the semester is payable at the beginning of each semester.

The candidates with double citizenship, one of which is Bulgarian, pay a tuition fee amounting to 50% of the fee for international students.

**The students can choose to be trained in more than one MA programmes simultaneously.**
APPLICATION DOCUMENTS:

1. Application form addressed to the Rector;
2. Copy of the University Diploma and a record of the student’s grades for the whole duration of their education;

*Note:

- The copy of the University Diploma and the record of the student’s grades should contain an original apostil from a country that has signed the Hague’s Convention, or to be sealed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of a country that has signed a bilateral agreement of “legal aid” with Bulgaria.
- The apostil or the seal should be laid out in the country that has issued the Diploma and the grade supplement.
- In case the University Diploma and the grade supplement have been translated in Bulgarian in the issuing country, the translated copies with the original apostil or a seal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be officially legalized by the Bulgarian Embassy (Consulate) in the corresponding country.
- In case the translation in Bulgarian has been conducted in Bulgaria the legalization of the translation should be done by the Consular Office of the Bulgarian Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.
- In case the University Diploma and the grade supplement have been issued by a country that has not signed the Hague’s Convention or has not signed a bilateral agreement of “legal aid” with Bulgaria, the conventional procedure for legalization and certification of translations is applied.
3. Certificate for English language;
4. Copy of a Diploma of Secondary school;
5. Medical certificate issued no later than 30 days before submission of the application pack;
6. Copy of the ID;
7. 4 photos (4/3 format);

8. CV
The documents under articles 2, 4 and 5 should be translated in Bulgarian and legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the respective country and the Bulgarian Embassy.
Application fee – 105 €.

* Note: Tuition fees are updated annually by a Decree of the Council of Ministers.

The Master’s programme training is offered in the following professional fields:

- Educational Management
- Pedagogy
- Pedagogy of Teaching in... (Informatics, Physics, Mathematics, Chemistry, History, Geography, Foreign Language etc.)
- History and Archeology
- Philosophy
- Philology
- Sociology, Anthropology and Cultural Studies
- Psychology
- Political Sciences
- Social Work
- Public Communications and Information Sciences
- Administration and Management
- Economics
- Tourism
- Physics
Chemistry
Earth Sciences
Informatics and Computer Sciences
Communication and Computer Technologies
Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Automation
Mechanical Engineering
Public Health
Fine Arts
Musical and Dancing Arts
Theatre and Film Arts
National Security

(The full list of MA programmes is available at http://www.swu.bg/academic-activities/academic-programmes/masters-programmes.aspx)

IV. MASTER’S PROGRAMMES OFFERED AFTER COMPLETION OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

Admission requirements:
The candidates should present a Certificate of Secondary Education allowing them to continue their studies in the state that issued the certificate. The certificates issued in foreign countries should undergo a procedure of official recognition held by the Blagoevgrad Regional Inspectorate of Education.

Duration of studies:
- 5 years. The duration of studies can be shortened to 4 years.

Deadline for submitting the application:
- 1st of October of the current academic year.

Modes of education:
- full-time and part-time for citizens of the European Union and the European Economic Area.
- only full-time for citizens outside the European Union and the European Economic Area.

The University provides the opportunity for individual training.

Tuition fees for citizens of the EU and EEA countries:
The EU and EEA citizens can apply under the following possible conditions:

Variant 1 - on the terms and conditions for Bulgarian citizens – training is subsidized by the Bulgarian state. The fees per semester are from 150 € up to 180€ depending on the major chosen. The training is conducted in Bulgarian only.

Variant 2 - on the terms and conditions for Bulgarian citizens – the tuition is paid. The fees per semester are between 450 € and 480 € depending on the major chosen. The training is conducted in Bulgarian only.

* Note: The candidates for training under Variant 1 and Variant 2 are required to present a certificate of language competence in Bulgarian.
*Note: The tuition fee for the semester is payable at the beginning of each semester.

**Tuition fees for citizens outside the EU and the EEA:**
Citizens of non-EU and non-EEA countries can apply for and be trained in full-time MA programmes only. The semester fee is 1600 €.

*Note: The tuition fee for the semester is payable at the beginning of each semester.

The candidates with double citizenship, one of which is Bulgarian, pay a tuition fee amounting to 50% of the fee for international students.

**The students can choose to be trained in more than one MA programmes simultaneously.**
APPLICATION DOCUMENTS:

1. Application form addressed to the Rector;
2. A validated copy and a certified translation of a Diploma for completed secondary education including a supplement specifying the period of attendance and the grades;
3. A document issued by a competent body certifying the applicant’s eligibility to continue his/her studies in higher educational institutions in the country in which he/she has completed his/her secondary education.

*Note:

- The copy of the Diploma, the record of the student’s grades and the document under article 3. should contain an original apostil from a country that has signed the Hague’s Convention, or to be sealed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of a country that has signed a bilateral agreement of “legal aid” with Bulgaria.

- The apostil or the seal should be laid out in the country that has issued the certificate and the grade supplement.

- In case the Diploma, the grade supplement and the document under article 3. have been translated in Bulgarian in the issuing country, the translated copies with the original apostil or a seal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be officially legalized by the Bulgarian Embassy (Consulate) in the corresponding country.

- In case the translation in Bulgarian has been conducted in Bulgaria the legalization of the translation should be done by the Consular Office of the Bulgarian Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.

- In case the Diploma, the grade supplement and the document under article 3. have been issued by a country that has not signed the Hague’s Convention or has not signed a bilateral agreement of “legal aid” with Bulgaria, the conventional procedure for legalization and certification of translations is applied.

4. Medical certificate issued no later than 30 days before submission of the application pack;
5. Copy of the ID;

6. 4 photos (4/3 format);

The documents under articles 2, 3 and 4 should be translated in Bulgarian and legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the respective country and the Bulgarian Embassy.

Application fee – 105 €.

* Note: Tuition fees are updated annually according to a Decree of the Council of Ministers.

The training is offered in the following MA programmes:

- Law
- Slavonic Studies
- Balkan Studies
V. PhD PROGRAMMES

List with accredited PhD programmes (http://www.swu.bg/university-profile/accreditation/accredited-phd-programmes.aspx)

Admission requirements:
The candidates should present an MA Diploma of higher education that should be officially recognized by the Academic Council of SWU “Neofit Rilski”.

Recognition fee – 105 €.

Modes of training: full-time, part-time and individual

Full-time training – fee per semester – 1750 €. Duration of studies – 3 years, minimal duration – 2 years. The fees are payable for full 3 year education. Admission is allowed after examination and approval of the required set of documents.

Part-time training – fee per semester 1250 €. Duration of studies – 4 years, minimal duration – 3 years. The fees are payable for full 4 year education. Admission is allowed after examination and approval of the required set of documents.

*Note: Citizens of EU and EEA are bound to pass an exam connected with the specialty they apply for and foreign language exam.

Individual training – fee per semester 1250 €. Duration of studies – 3 years, minimal duration – 2 years. The fees are payable for full 3 year education. Admission is allowed after presenting and approving of a PhD thesis project.

*Note: The tuition fee for the semester is payable at the beginning of each semester.

The candidates with double citizenship, one of which is Bulgarian, pay a tuition fee amounting to 50% of the fee for international students.

If the PhD Degree is awarded within 5 years after admission, the expenses for the official defense are covered by the University. After this period an additional fee of 1200 € is paid.

In all PhD programmes and modes of education the language of education is Bulgarian language or English language.

APPLICATION DOCUMENTS:

1. Application form addressed to the Rector;
2. Copy of the University Diploma and a record of the student’s grades for the whole duration of their education or a Certificate for completed university education;

*Note:

- The copy of the University Diploma and the record of the student’s grades or the Certificate for completed university education should contain an original apostil from a country that has signed the Hague’s Convention, or to be sealed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of a country that has signed a bilateral agreement of “legal aid” with Bulgaria.

- The apostil or the seal should be laid out in the country that has issued the Diploma and the grade supplement.

- In case the University Diploma and the grade supplement or the Certificate for completed university education have been translated in Bulgarian in the issuing country, the translated copies with the original apostil or a seal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should be officially legalized by the Bulgarian Embassy (Consulate) in the corresponding country.

- In case the translation in Bulgarian has been conducted in Bulgaria the legalization of the translation should be done by the Consular Office of the Bulgarian Ministry of the Foreign Affairs.

- In case the University Diploma and the grade supplement or the Certificate of completed university education have been issued by a country that has not signed the Hague’s Convention or has not signed a bilateral agreement of “legal aid” with Bulgaria, the conventional procedure for legalization and certification of translations is applied.

3. Medical certificate issued no later than 30 days before submission of the application pack;
4. Certificate for English language level B2 according to the Common European Framework;
5. List of publications if applicable;
6. Copy of the citizenship documents;
7. 2 photos (4/3 format);
8. CV;
9. Motivation letter

*Note: The documents under articles 2 and 3 should be translated in Bulgarian and legalized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the respective country and the Bulgarian Embassy.

Application fee – 105 €.

**PhD Programmes**

- Educational Management.
- Theory of Education and Didactics
- Special Pedagogy
- History of Pedagogy and Bulgarian Education
- Methodology of Education in Primary Classes
- Pedagogical Technologies in Cinder Garden
- Theory and Methodology of Physical Education (incl. Methodology of Remedial PE)
- Methodology of Education (in different scientific fields: nature and environment, nature and history, natural sciences, mathematics and informatics, Bulgarian language and literature, technical devices and technologies, fine arts, performance arts and theatre arts)
- Theory and History of Literature
- History of Bulgarian Literature
- Russian Literature
- Literature of the Peoples of Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Australia
- Bulgarian Language

- General and Comparative Linguistics
- Slavonic Languages
- German language
- English language
- Folkloristics and Ethnology
- Theory and Practice of Translation
- General Medieval History
- General Modern and Recent History
- History of Bulgaria
- Archeology (incl. Numismatics and Epygraphy)
- Documents recording, Archiving, Paleography (including Historiography and Source Studies)
- Ancient History and Thracian Studies
- History of Philosophy
- Social Philosophy
- Contemporary Theories of Philosophy
- Sociology
- Theory and History of Culture
- Labour Psychology and Professional Psychological Diagnostics
- Pedagogic and Age Psychology
- Political Sciences
- Organization and Management in social work
- Public Relations
- Information Technologies Application in PR
- Administrative Law and Administrative Process
- Civil and Family Law
- Labour Law and Social Security
- International Law and International Relations
Criminal Law
Criminal Process
Finance, Money flow, Crediting and Insurance
Economics and Management (Industry)
Organization and Management of Social Work and Culture
Economics and Management (Tourism)
Inorganic Chemistry
Organic Chemistry
Ecology and Environmental Protection
Cartography and Thematic Mapping
Physical Geography
Economic and Social Geography
Mathematical Analysis
Operational Research
Mathematical Modelling and Applications
Informatics
Computer Systems, Technologies and Networks
Logopedics
Kinezitherapy
Choreography
Theory and Practice of Arts Performing
Film theory, Film arts and Television

ACCOMMODATION
The students can be provided with accommodation in the University Centre “Bachinovo”, which offers hotel quarters and a SPA-centre. (http://www.swu.bg/university-profile/bachinovo.aspx).
Other accommodation in Blagoevgrad:

Hotels:
http://www.hoteli.ltd.bg/a04-blagoevgrad.htm
http://hotelmerida-bg.com/
http://www.cardinal-bg.com/
http://www.hotel-luxor.eu/Luxor/Luxor.php
http://www.hotelkristo.com/
http://www.hotelalpha.net/

Housing to rent:
http://svobodni-kvartiri.com/Kvartiri-v-Blagoevgrad-grad73191.html
http://www.bgkvartiri.net/index.php?option=com_adsmanager&page=show_category&catid=217&order=0&expand=0&Itemid=1

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The Region

The South-West region of Bulgaria is well-known for the numerous mineral springs, the magnificent nature of Rila and Pirin Mountains and the rich history and traditions. Here is one of the most sacred places of Bulgarian spiritual life - Rila Monastery. The region is also famous with the largest and most modern ski resorts on Balkans - Bansko, with Sandanski - a cozy town and a proffered place for lots of Bulgarians and foreigners because of its healthy air and numerous sanatoriums.

Blagoevgrad is a modern university town of about 80,000 citizens. It is at the foot of the Rila Mountains, 90 km South from the capital, Sofia, and near the borders of Greece and the Republic of Macedonia. It is an hour drive from Sofia.